FBIS DAILY REPORT

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FURTHER ON GOVERNMENT ACTIONS AGAINST UNION LEADERS

Exclusions From Union Leadership

PY032143 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2035 GMT 3 May 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 May (NA)--The Labor Ministry decided to exclude from the leadership of their unions four union leaders of the Committee of 25 who are being held in preventive custody as a result of their call for strike. The decision affects leaders Roberto Garcia (taxidrivers union), Demetrio Lorenzo (food workers union), Jose Luis Castillo (maritime pilots union), and Enrique Mico (garment industry workers).

Disposition of Detained Leaders

PY031616 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1557 GMT 3 May 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 May (TELAM)--A communique issued by the Public Information Secretariat has reported that 12 of the union leaders arrested last week in connection with the "day of protest" ordered by the "self-styled Committee of 25" are no longer at the disposal of the executive branch. This action is taken through Decree No 1007 and affects Enrique Ramon Mico, Roberto Juan Garcia, Roberto Secundino Digona, Jeronimo Manuel Izzeta, Jose Rodriguez, Antonio Marchese, Demetrio Lorenzo, Raúl Pascual Ravitti, Juan Carlos Crespi, Saul Edolvent Ubaldini, Jose Jesus Montani, and Jose Luis Castillo. All these persons have been "placed at the disposal of the courts that will deal with their respective cases."

Situation of Cordoba Leaders

PY031354 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1238 GMT 3 May 79 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 3 May (NA)--The secretary general of the Cordoba chapter of the General Labor Confederation and secretary general of the millers union, Bernardo Barcena, has also been arrested for signing a statement in support of the nationwide protest day organized last Friday by the Committee of 25. Meanwhile, 2 of the 15 Cordoba union leaders arrested for the same reason have been freed by order of Federal Judge Adolfo Zamboni Ledesma. They are the leaders of the glass workers union, Juan Carlos Lopez and Juan Boidi.

More on Cordoba Leaders

PY031807 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1709 GMT 3 May 79 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 3 May (NA)--The first federal judge of this city, Adolfo Zamboni Ledesma, today ordered preventive custody for 17 union leaders of the local Committee of 25, who he charged under Law 21,400 for signing a manifesto calling for a day of protest on 27 April.

The indictment and preventive custody affects leaders Juan Genaro de Blasis, Domingo Carlos Flaminin, Juan Roberto Lupi, Manuel Alberto Rodriguez, Americo Salustiano Mongiano, Juan Roberto Reyes, Salvador Domingo Gusmano, Juan Alfredo Reyes, Carlos Alberto Ortiz, Geronimo Suarez, Bernabe Santiago Barcena, Jose Oviedo and Francisco Alberto Solano. In the same ruling, the judge ordered the immediate release of leaders Benito Ruben Adelmo Amaranto, Francisco Roberto Fino, Hugo Jose Boidi and Juan Carlos Lopez for lack of proof that they signed the manifesto calling for strike.

In his lengthy ruling, Zamboni Ledesma indicated that the labor manifesto of the local Committee of 25, which was published by a newspaper of this city, constitutes a crime under Law 21,400 and therefore ordered the preventive custody of those who signed it.

ARGENTINE OFFICERS REPORTEDLY DETAINED IN CHILE

PY040222 Paris AFP in Spanish 2212 GMT 3 May 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 3 May (AFP)--The afternoon paper LA SEGUNDA reported here today that three Argentine military officers were detained by the police in northern Chile and then released at the border. The newspaper reported the incident on the front page, stating that the officers were 13 kilometers inside Chilean territory when they were detained by the police of the area. The report indicates that Maj Alberto Domanico, Lt Eduardo Cotiva and Sgt Pedro Antonio Freirez of the Tucuman Infantry Regiment were intercepted when traveling in a pickup in the Montucaraqui region, inside Antofagasta, 1,500 kilometers north of Santiago. LA SEGUNDA added that the incident took place last Monday, and that the three officers were not in uniform.

GOVERNMENT ASSUMES TIMERMAN'S SHARE OF LA OPINION

PY032132 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 2 May 79 p 1 PY

[Excerpts] Jacobo Timerman's 45-percent ownership of the newspaper he founded, LA OPINION, has been transferred to the government, while an appeals court has asked the military junta and the executive branch to say whether his situation (Timerman is held under house arrest) has changed, or whether he is still being held under the act of institutional responsibility.

The National Committee for Patrimonial Recovery (CONAREPA) has decreed that Timerman's shares in Editorial Olta S.A., the publishing company which owns LA OPINION, be transferred to the government, together with his shares in Graficos Gustavo S.A., and a flat he owns at Julian Alvarez 2852.

Timerman's ownership of the flat where he lives, Ayacucho 2150, and of his 1976 Peugeot 504 has been recognized by the CONAREPA, which has decreed that any other properties owned by Timerman either in Argentina or abroad should be expropriated.

The CONAREPA's detailed ruling makes a clear distinction between the properties which it considers legitimately acquired by Timerman and those which it alleges he could not justify ownership of.

The ruling is based on "evidence provided by Jacobo Timerman and the national attorney", according to the ruling's text, reprinted in full in Monday's edition of LA PRENSA. The government has not yet confirmed the CONAREPA's ruling, although the minister of the interior, General Albano Harguindeguy, is reported to have briefed President Jorge Videla on the matter recently.

The CONAREPA's ruling says that Timerman maintained that he had "legimately acquired" 45 percent of the stock in Editorial Olta S.A. and Graficos Gustavo S.A. with "his earnings in private business or pay received as a journalist".

An international news agency reported yesterday that a military source said that "the junta will analyze Timerman's situation", in response to the information requested by Appeals Court Number Eight, which is handling a habeas corpus filed for Timerman's release.

HUNGER STRIKE ENDS; NINE ORGANIZATIONS REGISTERED

PY031714 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0246 GMT 3 May 79 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 2 May (LATIN)--Four political leaders and 19 other activists have decided to suspend the hunger strike they had been holding when the military government agreed to meet their demands. These demands caused one of the most serious legal problems for the country's democratization process, which will end with the general elections to be held on 1 July.

The comptroller general, who controls the expenditure of public funds, has yielded to pressure by the leaders and members of leftist parties who staged a hunger strike demanding more flexible requirements. After exhaustive negotiations last night, the comptroller general agreed to accept a personal commitment in the form of a bill of exchange, a necessary requirement to guarantee the indicated payment.

Nine political organizations finally agreed to this commitment, thus consolidating their participation in the July elections. They are the Workers Vanguard, the Leftist Movement for Social Progress, the Bolivian Unity Party, the National Revolutionary Movement, the Nationalist Democratic Alliance, the Democratic and Popular Unity Front, Tupac Katari, the Popular Alliance for National Integration, and the First Socialist Party [Partido Socialista Uno].

COMMUNIST UNION LEADER ASSAILS MILITARY GOVERNMENTS

PY032201 Paris AFP in Spanish 1514 GMT 3 May 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 3 May (AFP)--Bolivian union leader Simon Reyes today harshly criticized the Argentine and Chilean military governments for the massacres of union leaders in those brotherly nations.

Reyes spoke at the fifth congress of the Bolivian Labor Central (COB), which is being held in La Paz for the first time in 9 years.

The union leader criticized restrictions on union activities in these two nations, the arrest of workers' leaders and the repressive laws aimed against the working class in order to disguise the economic failure of the neoliberal economists protected by the Argentine and Chilean military dictatorships. Reyes also criticized the repression of unions in Brazil and Paraguay.

Reyes is a member of the Bolivian Communist Party.

BRIEFS

POLIO CASES--Salta, 3 May (TELAM)--An outbreak of polio which is spreading in Bolivia, has already affected a vast region of La Paz city, Cochabamba, Camiri, Tarija, Santa Cruz de la Sierra and Yacuiba, where a total of 400 cases have been detected. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 May 79 PY]

SECURITY LAW TO BE INVOKED IN TRANSPORTATION STRIKE

FY040033 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 3 May 79 FY

[Text] Sao Paulo-Approximately 100 busdrivers and conductors picketed today in northern Sao Paulo in an attempt to stop the few buses that were moving in that area. The decision to organize picketing groups was made at an assembly held this morning, in which it was also decided to carry on the strike.

The strikers went to the (Santana) subway station, and from there they started to shout at the scabs [fura-greve], urging everyone to join the strike. Police then dispersed the demonstration and arrested several persons.

Sao Paulo Mayor Olavo Setubal stated today that he does not intend to make any concession to the drivers and conductors, who are on their second day of strike, unless a fare increase is authorized to cover the increase demanded by the workers. He made this announcement after meeting Theobaldo de Nigris, Jr., chairman of the Sao Paulo Bus Owners Association, and three other directors of the group. Setubal said the strike shows that everyone is making demands that are out of proportion.

Through an agreement signed today between Justice Minister Petronio Portella and Governor Salim Maluf, the Sao Paulo Public Secretariat was authorized to apply the national security law against the strikers. This authorization will become effective retroactively as of 19 March and will expire in March 1981. Security secretary Otavio Gonzaga stated today that the law will be applied strictly, and that every attempt at instigating strikes will be repressed. He noted that these measures will also be applicable to the ABC steelworkers.

Rejection of Proposal

FY040345 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0245 GMT 3 May 79 FY

[Excerpt] Tomorrow's newspapers will report that the busdrivers and conductors of Sao Paulo will carry on their strike despite the efforts made by Mayor Olavo Setubal. At a meeting today at the Sao Joao Batista Church, the strikers rejected the proposal made by Mayor Setubal to the workers wage committee, which will now make a counterproposal. The workers also decided to wait for the outcome of the meeting the committee will have tomorrow at 0800 with Mayor Setubal.

TEACHERS TO CONTINUE STRIKE DESPITE INTERVENTION

FY040359 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0245 GMT 3 May 79 FY

[Excerpt] Some 8,000 teachers of the Federal District gathered this afternoon in front of the National Congress. At this meeting elementary and secondary teachers of the public schools decided to carry on the strike they began 11 days ago. They made this decision on the day following the government's intervention in their union.

ANGOLAN MINISTER DISCUSSES OIL SALES, PROSPECTING

FY030133 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 2 May 79 FY

[Text] Brasilia--Angola may sell Brazil up to 15,000 barrels of petroleum daily for a year. Angolan Petroleum Minister Jorge de Morais reported that he will not discuss petroleum supply in the form of straight sales, but through an association with Brazil, that is, by having BRASPETRO prospect for petroleum in Angola under risk contracts.

FORMAL COMPLAINT REGISTERED AT ARGENTINE INCURSION

PY022101 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 May 79 PY

[Text] The Chilean Government has expressed its annoyance to the Argentine Government at the trespass by Argentine gendarmes into Chilean territory, according to Foreign Ministry sources. The sources reported that this was done today in Buenos Aires by Chilean Ambassador Sergio Onofre Jarpa.

As is known, a group of Argentine gendarmes entered Chilean territory in the (?Pegamala) sector, Ultima Esparanza Province, and after taking more than 200 livestock, established a military camp and hoisted the Argentine flag.

Since the gendarmes withdrew from the site but did not return the livestock, the farmers continue to [words indistinct].

The Chilean Embassy in Buenos Aires also noted that in accordance with what has been established by both countries, this border area is under the [words indistinct] agreement awaiting the replacement of border marker No 68.

COURT TO ACT AGAINST MAY DAY DEMONSTRATORS

PY031954 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 May 79 PY

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez disclosed today the identities of the 17 prisoners the government placed at the disposition of the military courts on charges of abusing Carabineros officers during street demonstrations on Tuesday, 1 May.

The minister also announced that this afternoon or tomorrow morning the government will present charges to the Appeals Court against 321 persons detained for violation of Article 6, Item A of the National Security Law. These persons are still at various Carabineros facilities. The government will file the same charges against 37 minors who are under house arrest, Fernandez said.

With regard to the alleged use of San Vicente church for an act considered eminently political by press circles on 1 May, the interior minister said all the necessary information is also being gathered. In this way, he answered a newsman's question about a possible government complaint to Church authorities.

At the same time, the chief of the Cabinet emphasized that none of those who participated in the disorders were workers or were linked to union activities, and that many of them are students. This again demonstrates the maturity and responsibility of the Chilean worker, the minister added. He also emphasized the peaceful attitude and [word indistinct] of the Carabineros.

TWO MIR CELLS SMASHED, WEAPONS SEIZED

PY030328 Paris AFP in Spanish 0146 GMT 3 May 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 2 May (AFP)--Two cells of the banned Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) were discovered today here and in Rengo, 80 km south.

Security agents arrested two MIR militants in a house in the Nuevo Amanecer neighborhood of this city and seized various explosives. The operation was carried out by personnel of the National Information Center (CNI), and the arrested persons were identified as Guillermo Zamora Zamora and Jorge Santos Diaz.

In Rengo security agents discovered two houses of the proscribed MIR and arrested two persons, Julio Ivan Ibarra Maripangui and Nora de las Mercedes Munoz.

Besides the arrests, the CNI agents also seized armaments, ammunition, high-powered homemade bombs, chemicals and rubber stamps of various public offices.

General Pinochet's government held the MIR responsible for more than 20 bomb explosions in Santiago during the last 3 months, one of which killed a security agent last week.

It was learned that CNI agents arrested five MIR members here yesterday afer an armed confrontation.

SOCIALISTS OUST ALTAMIRANO AS SECRETARY GENERAL

PY021647 Paris AFP in Spanish 1206 GMT 2 May 79 PY

[Text] Paris, 2 May (AFP)--The Central Committee of the Chilean Socialist Party [PS] released a communique here today reporting that former Senator Carlos Altamirano has been expelled from the party. Altamirano, who had been secretary general of the Chilean PS for 8 years, was pushed aside from the party's top leadership during a meeting of the board in East Berlin last week. On that occasion former Foreign Minister Clodomiro Almeyda was designated the new secretary general.

Almeyda Explanation

PY040219 Paris AFP in Spanish 2233 GMT 3 May 79 PY

[Text] East Berlin, 3 May (AFP)--Clodomiro Almeyda, new secretary general of the Chilean Socialist Party [PSCH], revealed here today that his predecessor, Carlos Altamirano, has been removed from his post and expelled from the movement for reasons of party politics and at the request of party cells operating in Chile.

The clandestine struggle calls for a disciplined party, which cannot be run in a liberal manner as it was before under a democratic regime, the foreign minister of late President Allende told AFP.

Without passing judgment on the former senator, Almeyda dismissed the opinion of a minority who believes the PSCH is characterized by bureaucratic, sectarian and communist tendencies.

Altamirano has been accused of indiscipline and an ambiguous attitude toward the party's extreme leftwing, Almeyda said. He added that Altamirano's ouster was decided after long consultations with the party's bases inside Chile.

Of the 40 members of the party Central Committee, 36 members-- 31 from the interior-- voted for the ouster of Altamirano, Almeyda said. Of the nine Chilean representatives in exile, four did not participate in the final deliberation, which was not attended by Altamirano either, Almeyda added.

Altamirano had been reelected to the post of secretary general in Algiers last year, a post which he had already held for 8 years, Almeyda recalled.

Almeyda, who has been residing in East Berlin for 3 years is also executive secretary of the Popular Unity.

Almeyda explained that there are no fundamental differences between him and Altamirano as to the political line to be followed in the struggle against fascism, alongside the leftist Christian Democrats and the communists.

The third plenum of the PSCH was held in Chile during the months of February, March and April under great risk due to police control. The plenum was divided into 600 small meetings of party bases, and altogether 4,000-5,000 militants participated in those meetings, the new PSCH secretary general said.

Almeyda concluded by saying that a 90-page document setting down the political orientation of the PSCH has been published.

DELEGATION TO VISIT ROMANIA, REESTABLISH CONTACTS

PY031309 Paris AFP in Spanish 0126 GMT 3 May 79 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 2 May (AFP)--A Chilean delegation will leave for Romania in the next few days to reestablish contacts between the joint cooperation commissions of the two countries. The Chilean delegation will be made up of Manuel Valencia, economic director of the Foreign Ministry's bilateral affairs department, and Manuel Atria, an official of the same department.

The two Chilean officials will also participate in the Bucharest Spring Fair, where Chilean products will be displayed, including copper, pellets, iron ore, grape brandy [pisco] and cellulose.

DELEGATION ARRIVES IN ROME FOR BEAGLE TALKS

PY031259 Paris AFP in Spanish 1123 GMT 3 May 79 PY

[Excerpt] Vatican City, 3 May (AFP)--Chilean diplomatic sources reported here today the arrival in Rome of Enrique Bernstein, chief of the Chilean delegation charged with negotiating a solution to the Beagle Channel conflict with Argentina through the mediation of the Holy See. The Argentine delegation, headed by Guillermo Moncayo, arrived on 2 April.

Meeting With Samore

PY031300 Paris AFP in Spanish 1132 GMT 3 May 79 PY

[Text] Vatican City, 3 May (AFP)--Enrique Bernstein, chief of the Chilean delegation to negotiate the Beagle Channel conflict here with Argentina, was received today by Cardinal Antonio Samore, who has been charged with mediating between the two countries.

BRIEFS

TOURISM DIRECTOR RESIGNS--Liliana Mahn, Chilean tourism director, reported today before holding a meeting with President Pinochet that she had submitted her resignation to the president. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 May 79 PY]

PRESIDENT TURBAY TO VISIT MEXICO, USSR, EUROPE

PA031254 Paris AFP in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] Bogota, 2 May (AFP)--It was announced here today that around the middle of this year, Colombia will initiate a program aimed at strengthening its foreign trade and technological exchanges when President of the Republic Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala visits Mexico and six European countries during a tour that will last 1 month. The 63-year-old president will be the first Colombian chief of state to visit France, Switzerland, the Soviet Union, Spain, Great Britain, Belgium and Mexico while in office. He has said that this is a "work" trip.

President Turbay told CONSIGNA magazine of Bogota: "The objective of my government is to strengthen foreign trade to the utmost and to sign technological exchange agreements with countries from which we have much to learn." The president said that his visit to Mexico is "something else" and noted that Colombia and that country are prepared to give a vigorous push to their cultural relations.

Turbay will speak before an assembly on the International Labor Organization [ILO] to be held in Geneva to commemorate the 70th anniversary of its creation. He will also speak before the European Economic Community in Brussels, where he will state the position of the Andean group formed by Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

CONSIGNA also noted the objectives of each visit according to statements made by Turbay himself.

In Mexico:

1. To issue a statement on the interest to promote the international coffee agreement;

2. To back the aspirations of the developing countries to make the developed countries' market accessible to their products, to get better purchasing prices and to gain support for agreements on these products;

3. The treaty on the banning of nuclear weapons from Latin America (the Tlaltelolco Treaty);

4. To support the ideal of regional denuclearization and the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes;

5. To formulate principles for the adequate treatment of labor and illegal immigration problems with neighboring countries; and

6. A cultural agreement (the first between the two countries).

In France, it is possible that agreements will be signed on the following topics:

1. The ad valorem tax imposed by the European community on coffee and flower imports, of which France is the main promoter;

2. Sofasa-Renault operations in Colombia;

3. Telecommunications satellites; and

4. Cultural cooperation with assistance from France for the establishment of a high-level development school.

In Spain:

1. Mining and industrial technical assistance projects that will include the cement industry, geothermal plants and the fishing industry:

2. Exploration for uranium and coal;

3. A cultural agreement; and

4. An increase in coffee sales to place 500,000 sacks of this product annually on that market.

In the Soviet Union:

1. Support for international peace, disarmament and SALT and respect for the self-determination of countries;

2. Agreements on basic products: Coffee and bananas. The objective is to place no less than 500,000 sacks of coffee annually [on that market] and to export bananas amounting to between $10 million and $20 million;

3. Coal exploitation and technology: The mounting of a coal-washing plant [planta lavadora del carbon] for coal exporting purposes:

4. A contract for the purchase of 200 trolley cars and the acquisition of approximately 1,000 additional units in 9 years; and

5. The acquisition of oil exploration equipment.

MINISTER REITERATES DECISION TO FIGHT SUBVERSION

PA031922 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] Bogota--The government today firmly stated that it will not cease its struggle against subversion. It said that with the cooperation of the armed forces and other security bodies, the government will intensify the action to reply to the challenge of the enemies of order and peace. On opening the meeting of intendants and commissioners today, Government Minister German Zea Hernandez said that the government is interested in the maintenance of public order in the country and because of this, it will not permit subversion and disorder to be successful.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON ANTI-DRUG TRAFFICKING EQUIPMENT

PA031417 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 May 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas has announced that the United States will provide new equipment for Colombia's fight against drug trafficking. Special equipment to detect and capture traffickers' planes form part of the materiel that the United States will turn over to Colombia as part of the new anti-narcotics agreement that will be signed by the two governments in the (?next month).

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO COSTA RICA--Bogota--Carlos Borda Mendoza has been appointed Colombian ambassador to Costa Rica. He was formerly secretary general of the Foreign Affairs Ministry. [Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 May 79 PA]

CFP WINS MAJORITY IN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

PA040424 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 May 79 PA

[Text] According to the latest [election] results the Concentration of Popular Forces [CFP] will have 29 legislators in the Chamber of Deputies, which will be a majority but not an absolute majority that would allow this political group to make decisions freely. For this reason, the CFP will be forced to form an alliance with one party. To have an absolute majority, a party must have 35 seats. This means that the CFP needs six seats, according to current figures, which could vary slightly.

Of the 29 CFP seats, 4 reportedly are national and 25 provincial. The Democratic Left appears to be the second-largest political force in the chamber with 17 deputies. The Democratic Left has announced that it will not form an alliance with any political group, and that it will remain independent. Of the 17 Democratic Left seats in the chamber, 2 reportedly are national and 15 provincial.

POLITICAL FIGURES VIEW ELECTION RESULTS

PA032338 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1255 GMT 3 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] With veiled hope, the traditional parties defeated by the people during Sunday's election stated that the last word on their political future has not been uttered. In any event, key Conservative and Liberal leaders concurred that mistaken electoral tactics had begun with the national leadership and included the regional leadership.

To some, the choice of the men who were to represent them was the reason for Sunday's defeat. To others, it was because the people wanted to show their estrangement from the past and their desire for change. Conservatives, Liberals and Socialists termed Roldos' victory a smashing voter protest against the military regime, which from the beginning made the CFP [Concentration of Popular Forces] a victim of persecution.

We are not going to get down and cry, the Conservative Party's Francisco Salazar, apparently the most prudent of the unhappy party members, said.

[Begin Salazar Alvardo recording] An indisputable revision and renovation of both national and (?regional) party leaders and certain platform proposals that the Ecuadorean people need to (?see) more clearly and more effectively is in order. [end recording]

Outwardly disgusted, the Liberal representative in the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, Dr Carlos Silva, blamed Liberal leaders for the defeat. It is their fault because they guided the process so shoddily, he said, voicing his criticism with frustration and anger.

[Begin recording] [Silva] This happens in all countries. Some parties win sometimes; other parties lose at other times. This is what happened now, but I do want to call attention to the fact that Liberal credibility has not been lost. The problem is that the leaders guided this electoral process shoddily.

[Question] Dr Silva, do you think there should be a change in party leadership [words indistinct]?

[Answer] Completely.

[Question] At what level?

[Answer] At the provincial level and in the Supreme [Electoral Tribunal]. [end recording]

In the meantime, national Socialist director Fabian Jaramillo explained that it was the electoral situation that divided the country between Roldos and Duran. In that situation, there was nothing the Socialist Party could do. Jaramillo Davila emphasized that the party will not disappear due to an electoral situation.

Liberal candidate Blasco Penaherrera found the difference in the people's support for Roldos and the CFP ticket headed by Mr Bucaram rather strange. Rather than outlining the reasons for the Liberals' setback, he said the matter needed further analysis.

[Begin Penaherrera recording] The strange thing is that CFP obtained only 354,000 votes. This shows that Roldos' figure rates better than his own party. Therefore, this is an issue that should be analyzed--the crisis of CFP in the eye of the public, rather than the crisis in other parties. Therefore, the fact that the Liberal Party had to fight the major Ecuadorean political figures.... [rephrases thought] Let us not forget that no less than two former presidents were running. As I said before, the key CFP figure, Mr Asaad Bucaram, the [presidential] candidate who won and a former presidential candidate such as Dr Rodrigo Borja were also running. That is one thing. Another fact is that for reasons that will be internally analyzed at the proper time, the Liberal Party did not enter into any alliances or agreements either with the presidential candidates or another political movement. In the specific case of the Democratic Left--and I have to say this because people are forgetting these facts--this political organization reached a convention, pact, agreement, alliance or what have you with the Alfarist Radical Front. In the July election, the latter got 130,000 votes which, in addition to the 150,000 that the Democratic Left secured, should have given it 280,000 votes. However, it did not get 280,000 votes but a little less or a lot less than that. Therefore, the success of one party and the apparent defeat of another are due to these aspects or causes without forgetting, as is logical, that Liberal Party leaders worked hard enough to have obtained a (?higher) vote than we got. [end recording]

APRE FILES REQUEST FOR RECOUNT OF VOTES

PA031852 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 May 79 PA

[Text] In view of the fact that party No 13, Ecuadorean Revolutionary Popular Action [APRE], raised its formal and just complaint to the Supreme [Electoral] Tribunal requesting a complete recount of the votes cast on Sunday, the local tribunal will perform this task as soon as the process in question begins. APRE considers that many party members and others who share its views and ideals will vote for ticket No 13 on Sunday, the 29th of this month. [sentence as heard]

PUERTO CASADO WORKERS STRIKE TO PROTEST FIRINGS

PY040301 As[illegible]ion HOY in Spanish 3 May 79 p 11 PY

[By special correspondent Atilio Viera]

[Text] Puerto Casado, 2 May--Workers of the Carlos Casado Enterprise decided during an assembly held today to continue their strike until the workers who were fired "without any justification" are rehired and returned to their jobs.

The special general assembly, which was held during the afternoon, was attended by all the local labor leaders and leaders from the national workers central. The meeting was presided over by Modesto Ali, secretary general of the Paraguayan Labor Confederation [CPT], and by Nestor Herrera, secretary general of the Carlos Casado Workers Union.

The assembly decided to fully authorize the CPT secretary general to carry out all the necessary efforts in seeking a solution to the problem. He must seek the measures that will allow the workers "who were fired in an unjust way to be returned to their jobs."

Those fired were: Victor Bernal, Dionisio Arevalos, Emigoio Falcon and Francisco Mendez. The assembly decided to energetically repudiate Felipe Izquierdo, a high-ranking director of the firm, and Juan Tefti, "who have supported the enterprise without taking into account the working class."

At the conclusion of the assembly, a closed-door meeting was held with the participation of the workers' leaders and directors of the enterprise. Diego Leon and Felipe Izquierdo participated in the meeting, and they remarked that they were "not in a condition to resolve the problem because they have to meet with other members of the board in order to decide on a solution."

On Saturday there will be another meeting between local CPT leaders and the firm's directors. It is possible that an agreement will be reached. Anyway, the strike will continue until the four fired workers are returned to their jobs in accordance with the assembly's decision.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR--The government of El Salvador has agreed to the appointment of Alberto Llanes as the new Paraguayan ambassador to that country. [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 2 May 79 p 9 PY]

COTAL APPROVAL DECREE--The executive branch yesterday signed a decree granting its approval to the XII Congress of the Confederation of Latin American Tourist Organizations to be held in Asuncion on 18-23 May, considering this congress to be "in the national interest." [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 1 May 79 p 10 PY]

ANTI-CHAGAS DISEASE CAMPAIGN--Argentine Social Welfare Minister Rear Adm Jorge Alberto Fraga (ret) arrived in Asuncion yesterday to attend the launching of a joint Argentine-Paraguayan campaign against Chagas disease. Argentina has donated material and equipment, including nine "Rastrojero" diesel pickup trucks, valued at 200 million pesos, for the implementation of this program. [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 29 Apr 79 p 10 PY]

NEW CONSTITUTION TO BE PROCLAIMED ON 7 JUNE

PA022033 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0328 GMT 2 May 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 1 May (EFE)--Jorge Lozada Stambury, first secretary of the Peruvian Constituent Assembly, announced today that the new Peruvian constitution will be publicly proclaimed on 7 June, day of the "renewal of the oath to the flag," which commemorates the battle of the hill of Arica, which occurred more than a century ago in the War of the Pacific.

Lozada said that the text of the new constitution will be ready at the end of May, and that it will be proclaimed in all public squares, armed forces garrisons, education centers and in a solemn session at the Legislative Palace.

The Aprist Party of Peru deputy stressed the significance of the anniversary of the patriotic deed of Peruvian Col Alfonso Ugarte who, having lost the battle, jumped from the hill so that the flag would not fall into enemy hands.

LABOR MINISTER ADDRESSES NATION ON LABOR PROBLEMS

PA011816 Paris AFP in Spanish 1646 GMT 1 May 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 1 May (AFP)--Labor Minister Gen Jose Garcia Calderon said last night that the economic and financial crisis that is affecting Peru has increased the underemployment and unemployment rates and the cost of living and has reduced the people's purchasing power.

In a report to the nation on work, employment, social security and cooperatives, the minister said that only through a continued effort in a climate of peace and cooperation between employers and workers can adequate conditions be created to increase the Peruvians' standard of living.

After noting that the job crisis began at the end of 1974, Gen Garcia Calderon said that last year underemployment affected 32 percent of the economically active population, estimated at 3 million, while unemployment amounted to 6.5 percent. The minister said that the respective figures for 1977 were 48 percent and 5.8 percent. The minister added that the employment situation in the manufacturing and construction sectors continues to be negative, and that measures were adopted to improve employment in the rural area.

Regarding the labor policy, he said that it should be based on the recognition of the right to unionize, bargain collectively and strike in line with the laws and the country's economic situation.

He regretted that during last year and the first months of 1979 some labor conflicts have occurred "with eminently political goals to delay the economic recovery and hinder the transfer of power to civilians."

He also said that the establishment of wage policies through collective bargaining covers only 10 percent of the economically active population, so the government has issued wage increases for all workers.

PRESIDENT IS INFLEXIBLE TO TELEPHONE WORKERS' DEMANDS

PA021605 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2335 GMT 1 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 1 May (LATIN)--President Jose Lopez Portillo today warned the 25,000 telephone workers who have been on strike during the past 6 days that he will not yield to their demands for wage increases which would aggravate the country's current economic situation.

The warning was expressed in a message that the president sent to the Mexican workers at the end of a parade which more than 500,000 members of the Confederation of Mexican Workers and the Labor Congress held today to commemorate International Labor Day. The striking workers of the Mexican State Telephone Enterprise are demanding a 25 percent wage increase in comparison to the 13.5 percent increase offered by the enterprise, in which the government had to intervene to guarantee communications in the country.

Lopez Portillo indicated that his government will not yield because if it does, it would place the telephone workers union in a privileged position with regard to other sectors of workers who have accepted the maximum 13.5 percent wage increase imposed by the government. Nevertheless, he described the telephone workers union strike which began on Wednesday at noon as an "advance" of unionism. The president personally addressed union leader Francisco Hernandez Juarez to ask him to accept the company's conditions.

FOREIGN SECRETARY LEAVES ON U.S. VISIT

PA011350 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0407 GMT 1 May 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 30 Apr (EFE)--Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel said here today that Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo is determined to solve the problem of illegal workers in the United States during his term. Interviewed shortly before leaving on a tour of the United States which will take him from Brownsville, Texas, to Washington, the Mexican foreign secretary said that the issue of the migrant workers is "a complex problem" that "must be attacked immediately."

During his visit, Roel will visit and inspect all the consulates on the northern border and will speak with at least 25 consuls to discuss with them increased protection for Mexicans. The foreign secretary said that in view of the president's position, "we are going to analyze the most profound causes of this problem." He also indicated that the main objective of his trip is to visit the detention centers for illegal workers and to speak with the U.S. immigration authorities.

BRIEFS

URANIUM ENTERPRISE--Mexico City, 26 Apr (AFP)--The Mexican Uranium Enterprise [Uranio Mexicano--URAMEX] which was recently established by the law for the exploration, exploitation and subsequent development of uranium will start operations in the first half of May. The information was provided by Francisco Vizcaino, director of the new state firm, who added that Mexico's uranium reserves amount to 9,000 proven tons, 35,000 probable tons and about 250,000 possible tons. He said that about 1.1 million square km, more than half the total possible uranium-bearing land, has yet to be explored. A very important deposit was found in the Sierra mountains of Chihuahua, in northern Mexico. The new enterprise will also be in charge of opening the Laguna Verde nuclear power plant in eastern Mexico when the United States releases a cargo of enriched uranium that it has been holding but will return to Mexico shortly. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2003 GMT 26 Apr 79 PA]

PRESIDENT ARISTIDES ROYO IN SPAIN ON OFFICIAL VISIT

For Spanish reportage on the official visit of Aristides Royo to Madrid see the Spain section of the 3 May Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

PRESIDENT TO ATTEND NONALINED MEETING IN CUBA

PA030352 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 May 79 PA

[Text] Panama is deeply grateful for the nonalined countries' support for its cause. For this reason, we cannot fail to go to Havana, Panamanian President Aristides Royo said in Madrid in announcing that he will attend the sixth summit meeting of the nonalined movement which will take place in the Cuban capital in September. In statements to PRENSA LATINA, the Cuban news agency, Royo said that nonalinement forms part of Panama's foreign policy. He emphasized that this is particularly important in the case of a Latin American nation which has been subjected to U.S. occupation. The nonalined movement's summit meetings are active (?forums) which have great repercussions, although reports on these meetings do not receive much coverage from certain international press agencies, the Panamanian president added.

SPANISH PRIME MINISTER TO ATTEND 1 OCTOBER CEREMONIES

PA030127 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2240 GMT 2 May 79 PA

[Text] Madrid, 2 May (EFE)--Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez will visit Panama on 1 October at the invitation of Panamanian President Aristides Royo. Panamanian Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores confirmed to EFE tonight that Suarez had accepted the invitation extended by President Royo, who is on an official visit to Spain. Panama is preparing a number of ceremonies for 1 October, the day on which its agreements with the United States on the Panama Canal will go into effect.

President Royo told Suarez that the Panamanian people and government would like him to attend the ceremonies on 1 October, the date on which Panama will begin to exercise full sovereignty over the Canal Zone. During a luncheon hosted by Suarez in honor of Royo at Moncloa Palace, the Spanish prime minister confirmed that he had accepted the invitation. For his part, President Royo mentioned Suarez' visit to Panama during his speech tonight at a dinner which he gave in honor of the Spanish monarchs at the Ritz Hotel.

GOVERNMENT RADIO REPORTS SENATE AID CUTOFF

PA030004 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 2 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] The National Government, through the Foreign Ministry, is holding talks with the U.S. Embassy in our country regarding a proposal made by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee to suspend aid programs to Panama. The committee recommended elimination of $12.8 million in aid to our country on the premise that, once the new canal treaties are implemented, Panama will obtain great economic benefits in the form of tolls and other assets.

It will be recalled that last month a plenary session of the U.S. House of Representatives adopted resolutions which eliminated $12 million in aid for Panama's development and $2.5 million for a military assistance program. The U.S. administration has warned that these measures by the Congress contravene the spirit and the letter of the treaties which will go into effect on 1 October. Observers feel that economic and military aid to Panama is in line with the spirit of the treaties, since it was in exchange for this aid that our country agreed to a gradual transition lasting until the year 2000 before exercising full sovereignty over the canal and the Canal Zone.

STUDENTS STONE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE DURING DEMONSTRATION

PA031841 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] Students of the National Institute stoned the presidential palace today, breaking most of the windows of the Yellow Room, where the National Financial Commission, headed by Acting President Ricardo de la Espriella, was holding a meeting. The students gathered at Cathedral Park, where they stoned the installations of the Planning and Economic Policy Ministry, seriously damaging an automobile that was parked in front of the building and causing great alarm among the ministry's employees, who were working at that time. From there they went to the presidential palace, where they shouted slogans against President Aristides Royo, accusing him of being a traitor. The students had their faces covered with scarves to avoid identification.

Other Student Incidents

PA031945 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1925 GMT 3 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] Panama City, 3 May (ACAN-EFE)--Students of the National Institute of Panama City today hurled stones at the buildings of the presidency of the republic and the Planning and Economic Policy Ministry, causing heavy damages to the buildings' glass windows. Meanwhile, it was reported at noon today that students of a vocational school in La Chorrera, located 32 km south of Panama City, stoned the municipal building, the Banco Nacional de Panama, the slaughterhouse and the public market, damaging the front of the buildings.

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT AT LABOR DAY RALLIES

PA012348 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 1 May 79 PA

[Text] The international press recorded the celebration of 1 May in our country by pointing out that for the first time in 5 years there were no national government representatives at the rally held in Cinco de Mayo Park. At the same time, the U.S. military broadcasting station in the Canal Zone recommended that U.S. Canal Zone residents stay out of Panama City today.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO UNESCO--Josefa Maria Prado has been appointed permanent Panamanian ambassador to UNESCO in Paris. [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 26 Apr 79 pp 44, 26 PA]

NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECT--The Panamanian Government will invest $50 million in the Colon Province development plan. The plan will try to solve basic problems such as unemployment and low income housing. Funds for the project will be obtained from the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank. [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 1 May 79 pp 1, 20 PA]

COFFEE, COCOA INCREASE--The Agriculture and Livestock Development Bank plans to invest $9 million in the cultivation of coffee, cocoa, bananas and African oil palms, as part of a special $38 million agricultural program. A total of 2,500 hectares of cocoa will be cultivated and 1,300 with coffee, the bank's manager said. One of the aims of the program is to encourage more coffee cultivation in the province of Colon. To encourage more production, the bank is offering $500,000 in financing to the Changuinola cooperative for the expansion of cocoa cultivation. The bank gives technical assistance to producers along with tips on how to improve the quality of their crops. [Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 3 May 79 pp 1, 7-A PA]

BELIZE

EDITORIAL ADVISES AGAINST PRICE SEEKING REELECTION

FL031546 Belize City THE REPORTER in English 29 Apr 79 p 2 FL

[Unattributed editorial]

[Text] The disturbing thing about the press interview which Mr. George Price gave to the Miami HERALD recently is not that he aspires to be premier for another five years, but that he wants to do so with a two-thirds majority.

These are ominous words. One would have thought that after 15 years as premier he would have been tickled pink merely to win. But a two-thirds majority: Whatever for?

Does he want it merely to prove that he is George Price the unbeatable? No. He has already been trounced severely -- twice in city council elections and once in country-wide town board elections. Why then would the premier be hankering after two-score years as premier with a two-thirds majority?

We think we know the answer. A two-thirds majority would give him a sense of power, of vindication. He would be able to lord it over the opposition and all those who, in frustration, have abandoned his party. It would allow him to have a cabinet big enough to dominate the house and keep the Senate in servitude. It would enable him to maintain a strong centralist government by keeping all the plums in Belmopan and denying local governments a significant say in the management of their affairs.

With a two-thirds majority Mr. Price can continue to be the uncrowned absolute monarch, King George VII and all his family and friends can be courtiers so long as they bow to him and pay him obeisance.

To accomplish this he would go to great lengths, spare no expense, become all things to all men, even if he has to cut their throats one by one, at a later date. This explains the mushrooming housing programme, the rush of new "investors" who all of a sudden want to "help" Belize. It explains the tolerance of big crime, the undermining of democracy, the dramatic swing from the left back to the right.

Alas for Mr. Price. He is still obsessed with himself. He still thinks of Belize in terms of "me". His reach, as before, continues to exceed his grasp.

We at THE REPORTER are absolutely and unalterably opposed to a fourth term of the premier's office for Mr. Price. If he couldn't accomplish his aims in fifteen years as premier, he is not going to do so from 1979 to 1984.

Mr. Price is a one-man guy with no reserves. He is 60 years old and fading fast. Very often he is compared with the leader of the opposition as a prop to his own image. But if Price died tomorrow, who in his party could become premier of Belize? Mr. Lindo on the other hand does not have to die for others in his party to assume the top leadership position. The opposition party is simply not structured that way.

Only an election or a serious illness can separate Mr. Price from his love of the premiership. To us, such an election is greatly to be preferred.

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT DELIVERS STATE OF NATION SPEECH

PA021452 San Jose Domestic Service in Spanish 2045 GMT 1 May 79 PA

[Speech by President Rodrigo Carazo at the Legislative Assembly in San Jose on the work of his administration during its 1st year in office--live]

[Excerpts] Pursuant to Article 139 of the Constitution and respectful of the majesty of the Legislative Assembly, I submit my first report on the three subjects which the Constitution demands: Different matters of public administration, the political state of the nation and an outline of some measures for the good functioning of the government and the progress and welfare of the nation.

Few times in our history have Costa Rica's sovereignty, dignity and peace been challenged with so much arrogance as in recent months. Few times have such insistent efforts been made to subject a government to the will of its neighbor, as has occurred in the last few months. Our arms and our reply to those attacks were neither war nor submission, but dignity. Only a nation that is vigorous internally and a government with clean moral credentials can, while not having an army, maintain the peace and dignity of its territory. However, when these virtues are absent, one seeks peace in submission or in indecorous intimacy with the aggressor.

Having emphasized popular participation during the political campaign and having established this principle in government actions and the national life through specific actions over the past year--which does not mean that it is not necessary to redouble the effort for our democracy to establish itself in reality on popular participation and not on passivity or permanent waiting--I initiated the opening of the national dialog at all levels. The process has been coherent: Dissemination of the principle of popular participation, specific actions in this field, recovery of the system of public opinion, affirmation of the national debate, opening to all groups and sectors of the citizens and maximum guarantees to critize.

Those who turn their backs on the necessities of the people do not deserve to lead them. The problems concerning energy, conservation of natural resources, violence, social justice, education, international relations and others exceed the capacity of a single man, a single group, a single party or a single government. Only in an atmosphere of permanent national dialog, that is, openness, loyalty and responsibility, can they be solved effectively. If the Costa Rican people do not unite on essential issues without divisions, at the beginning of the next century we will not only eliminate our forests, but our own identity as a peaceful, independent, democratic, dignified and admired nation as well.

One of my government's main objectives has been to make the public force an institution at the service of the community, an institution to prevent rather than to repress crime. The Superior Institute of Police Studies was created for this purpose and, together with the National Police School, it has directed its efforts to train these public officers. The government has the firm intention of technically improving the public force until it acquires a civilian touch, respect, efficiency and capability. The government also intends to provide the public force with the technical equipment indispensable for its delicate duties.

This government has not purchased arms from any country. It has borrowed arms but not to use them to attack anyone. However, our civil guardsmen patrolling the border and protecting the peasants who live near the border should at least have arms to defend themselves. Those who would have liked to see them leave for the northern border without arms and helpless do not have a clear concept of a nation's sovereignty and much less of the respect due to a human being serving his country.

The Public Security Ministry has organized its various departments. Air and maritime vigilance sections have been set up in defense of our sea wealth, a vital part of our fishery policy. Several expeditions have been made to Isla del Coco to reaffirm the rights of the Costa Rican people over that portion of the nation's territory. Equipment has been modernized and 95 percent of the liaison and coordination program has been achieved through the communications system in the country. The results are eloquent: Six tuna fishing boats have been seized, millions have been paid for the right to fish in our waters and large sums have been paid in courts for fines. Drug trafficking has also been controlled by personnel trained for this purpose.

The financial situation found by this government reflected the already chronic problem of the balance of payments, a problem which increased the country's debt and public expenditures at an unparalleled rate. It has been impossible to refinance the debt with assigned current incomes. On the other hand, the production structure and the growth of the economy showed serious imbalances. While some activities developed at an acceptable rate, others--like agriculture--remained stagnant. On 30 April 1978 the balance of the international monetary reserves was $345.8 million. That balance, however, was influenced by two important factors. During the first 3 months of that year, nearly half of the estimated coffee production for that year had been sold at an average of $188.31 per quintal, a relatively high price. Additional revenues were derived from foreign loans.

Three fundamental guidelines have been implemented in the (?financial) area during this period:

1. Increasing the public treasury's current revenues and identifying any interference or disturbance in the economic system.

2. Regarding expenses, the main objective has been their rationalization and the reduction of the economic impact inherent in the growth trend in recent years.

3. The national budget must become an instrument of administrative control and represent the highest form of spending authorization but it should not be a payment order.

An objective diagnosis of the [word indistinct] national reality points to the following problems: Chronic deficit of the balance of payments; increasing foreign debt; increasing dependence abroad, financially, technologically and culturally; foreign trade subjected to the export of a few products; uncertainty regarding the behavior of the international markets, as regards both our exports and our imports, particularly hydrocarbons; loss of dynamism in the Central American Common Market [CACM]; abusive exploitation of our natural resources; concentration of economic, social and political activities in the central valley; extreme poverty of 25 percent of the country's population; excessive protection of privileged groups through a deep-seated system of state paternalism; increase of alcoholism, prostitution and the mistreatment and abandonment of children; an excessively large public sector which could not be financed through the economy of the country; deficient qualitative results in the formative and cultural aspects of education; stagnant agricultural production; and production distorted by arbitrary measures which in no way contribute to the improvement of productive activities.

The intensification of the internal struggle in our northern neighbor has meant problems in connection with imports and exports within the CACM, and these affect our economy. In the same manner, the threats posed against our national security as a result of this conflict have led to a diversion of human and economic resources from the development effort in order to be able to guarantee national sovereignty.

To all this we must add the uncertainty connected with oil prices. The OPEC decision to gradually raise the price of crude oil by 14 percent during 1979 is far removed from the reality of this product's international market, where price increases have at times gone 50 percent above the fixed price.

This is a brief diagnosis of our problems on the basis of reality. I explain this to you, not to worry you or to seek a pretext, but to show, on the basis of this report, how we have struggled against adversity and how firm our will and determination has been.

Our foreign policy has been based, in these 12 months, on the topics which constitute the historic vocation of our country: Peace, human rights and dignity. As a country of peace, which has proscribed an army and which has decided to take this message to the entire world, because it is the first right of man, Costa Rica has not alined itself with any group or bloc, not even with the nonalined movement, because it is convinced that its future depends on its adherence to certain basic principles of man and society and not on the temporary or circumstantial interests of any group.

In few periods of its history has Costa Rica been so close to tragedy, because of the aggression of the Nicaraguan Government, and in few periods has it emerged from crisis with so much dignity and prestige. Besieged by the internal groups which desire the overthrow of the Nicaraguan Government and facing aggression from that government, the Costa Rican Government has managed to maintain a healthy equilibrium, aware that its duty was not to appraise the value of the motives of one or the other group, but rather to maintain unchanged the peace and the security of the nation.

My government has also undertaken vigorous efforts in Central America to save the CACM and to reestablish the principle of legality in our trade relations. A plan has been drafted in this connection. We trust that collective interests will prevail over immediate and transitory local political objectives. It is not possible to allow Central America to continue to be divided and indifferent to the signs of the times in view of the imperiousness of other countries and the large number of external factors plaguing the economies of our countries.

I visited Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala on 17 and 18 April and raised the following specific subjects with the heads of state of those nations: The CACM, the energy problem, a common front in regard to our policy on tuna, a joint position vis-a-vis the international shipping lines, Costa Rica's policy on telecommunications and a "university for peace." The receptivity to my proposals for unity of the isthmus in the face of the problems affecting it from abroad and the urgent need to reactivate the CACM was sincere and enthusiastic.

However, my proposal regarding the energy problem is not limited to Central America and did not originate in my trip to those countries. My efforts in this regard began on 3 March when I met with Panamanian President Aristides Royo, in Sixaola, where we signed an agreement on border cooperation and created a friendship park in the Salamanca mountain range. We also agreed to undertake joint efforts to obtain an adequate supply of oil and oil byproducts as well as reasonable prices for those products.

During my visit to Venezuela to attend the inauguration of Luis Herrera Campins and to thank President Carlos Andres Perez and the Venezuelan people for their invaluable help during the crisis with Nicaragua, I proposed to the presidents and heads of government of Spain, Bolivia, Colombia and the Dominican Republic that we sign a joint declaration in regard to the price and supply of fuels. In that declaration, we called the attention of the oil-producing countries and the entire world to the unpostponable need to establish a mechanism to make it possible to fix logical prices of oil and oil byproducts. This idea was supported at the 53d special meeting of the OPEC conference held in Geneva from 26 to 27 March.

Honorable deputies, the World Conference on Telecommunications will be held in Geneva in September. There, my government has decided to adopt an advanced position in this regard, to the point where its [word indistinct] interest and proposals in this field have been a pleasant surprise to international bodies and quite a few European and American countries. The topic of communications is nothing new or cause for (?division), as some believe, but one of the most powerful instruments of political and economic domination in today's world. In addition, satellite observation of earth from space by the powerful nations involves sensitive juridical connotations that must not be overlooked. For this reason, it is necessary to reaffirm the principle of prior consultation with the countries under observation and to institute their right to be informed about the results of the satellite observation and to be consulted about the distribution to third countries of the data obtained.

It is urgent to reconcile the development of technology with the objective and principle of sovereignty of the states and to reach an agreement on a wide-ranging policy on the dissemination of primary information in order to safeguard the security and economic interests of states against the risk of undue use [of information] by other states or nongovernmental foreign entities.

It is necessary to reconcile the right to free dissemination of information and ideas with the need to safeguard the historical and cultural identity of nations. It is also essential to define the outerspace area and to delimit the scope of the geostationary orbit. These matters are not alien to us. They involve serious world problems in which Costa Rica has decided to participate with a raised voice and in the face of which it will spare no effort to establish a strong, common Latin American stand.

OAS WATCHING NICARAGUAN DEVELOPMENTS

PA032016 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 3 May 79 PA

[Text] The clashes between the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and the Nicaraguan National Guard have continued in the San Juan River area. Forces of the FSLN's Benjamin Zeledon southern front have stepped up their attacks and have clashed several times in the last few days with detachments of Somoza's National Guard. The fighting has taken place inside Nicaraguan territory a few kilometers from our country's borders. For this reason, it has been possible to hear the shooting from our territory, especially in Los Chiles. Thus far, the situation in Costa Rica is normal. Sources of the Government and Interior ministries have repeatedly said that no reinforcements will be sent to those areas unless required by the situation.

The column named after Chato Medrano, who died in clashes with the National Guard in 1977 and lived most of his life in Costa Rica, has carried out the latest operations in the San Juan River area. The Edwin Chavarria squad of that column ambushed a large contingent of national guardsmen in (Tiricia), Nicaragua during which the National Guard suffered casualties but the Sandinists did not. Carlos Hernandez has reported from Ciudad Quezada that the shooting could be heard in Costa Rica's towns.

On Tuesday afternoon, Eden Pastora Gomez, the so-called Commander Cero and chief of the Benjamin Zeledon southern front which operates along the Nicaraguan border inside Nicaraguan territory, appeared in Ciudad Quezada before the rural assistance guard's post in the canton. He was accompanied by three inhabitants of the canton. According to reports, he went there to recover an 11-meter radio [radio de 11 metros] which had been seized from an inhabitant of the area the previous week. The radio was returned following a review of the documents they submitted and an evaluation of the situation. Everything was found to be in order, it was reported.

It has been learned from an Interior Ministry source that members of the OAS Supervisory Commission went to Los Chiles yesterday to watch the cleanup operation being carried out by Somoza against the guerrillas of the Benjamin Zeledon southern front, which operates on the other side of the San Juan River. The source, which did not want to be identified, said that the OAS will watch the National Guard's movements to keep it from entering the national territory in pursuit of the guerrillas. If the cleanup operation is too intensive, the Sandinists may withdraw into Costa Rican territory. The OAS is there in order to keep Somoza from violating the nation's sovereigtny in a bid to capture the guerrillas. We are taking care of that, always maintaining our neutrality, the source said.

PRESIDENT TO DISCUSS OIL PURCHASES IN MEXICO

PA040406 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] President Carazo will go to Mexico on 16 May. The main subject to be discussed with Mexican President Lopez Portillo will be the provision of fuel. President Carazo is scheduled to go to Mexico on 16 May. Only after his meeting [with Lopez Portillo] will it be known what possibility exists for solving the problem of the supply of oil and oil by-products. Although Mexico sells at prices higher than those of OPEC, direct purchases would compensate for this by circumventing the charges of transnational companies which manage the immediate-delivery market.

Adequate Supply of Fuel

PA040407 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] The Costa Rican Oil Refinery [RECOPE] has announced that the country has an adequate supply of fuel. As of today, there were 22.738 million liters of diesel at Alto de (Tomogo) and 8,562 liters of gasoline at Cocal in Puntarenas. At Golfito there were 976,000 liters of diesel and 779,000 gallons of jet fuel. In Caldera there are 470,000 liters of fuel for ships. These facts show that the country's supply of fuel is normal.

25 NICARAGUAN FISHERMEN TO BE RELEASED

PA031445 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 May 79 PA

[Text] Immigration authorities completed the necessary inquest yesterday and decided to release at 0800 today the 25 Nicaraguan fishermen who have been under arrest since Saturday. A Costa Rican patrol boat detained the fishing boats Robetito I, Santa Clara and (Sardier) of (Pajadiquil). The Office of the Legal Adviser of the Government and Justice Ministry immediately submitted an official report to the Public Ministry charging them with piracy.

The Nicaraguans have been in custody at the Liberia commander's office since Saturday night. Sources of the Immigration and Foreigners Affairs Office said that the three captians will remain there. In front of witnesses and in individual affidavits, the 25 Nicaraguans said that they would return to their country under their own responsibility. Three of them had requested asylum at the beginning.

Return to Nicaragua

PA032021 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 3 May 79 PA

[Text] A spokesman for the immigration office in Liberia has said that the 24 Nicaraguan fishermen may have already crossed the border and may be on the way to their homes. Twenty-four fishermen of the boats Robertito I, Santa Clara and (Sardier) decided of their own volition to return to Nicaragua after signing an affidavit in which they set forth this decision. This was done in order to relieve the government of any future responsibility in this connection.

It was learned that only one, Salvador Bravo Zapata, decided to stay in Costa Rica. Bravo apparently has relatives in Costa Rica who have welcomed him in their homes. In addition, it was confirmed that the captains of the boats, Juan Marin, Gerardo Talavera and Luis Aleman, are still in custody at the commander's office in Liberia. They are at the orders of the judicial branch on charges of piracy.

LARGE DEBT OF NICARAGUAN BUSINESSMEN NOTED

PA040411 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] Fernando Altmann Ortiz, minister of economy, industry and commerce, has disclosed that Nicaraguan merchants and industralists owe some $14 million to Costa Ricans. Although partial payments have been made, particularly in the area of construction, the critical situation prevailing in that country has made it impossible to recover this sum. To add to the difficulty, many businessmen have either lost all their capital or have taken it out of the country. The Central Bank [of Nicaragua] has extended a line of credit to amortize pending debts.

BRIEFS

CHINESE RESIDENCE PERMIT SUSPENSION--San Jose, 28 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Costa Rican Interior Minister Juan Jose Echeverria Brealey has announced that the residence permits of 1,000 Chinese presently living in Costa Rica will be withdrawn as the persons involved obtained the permits irregularly. The minister said that an investigation by the attorney general's office showed that many Chinese came to the country, obtained their residence permit and Costa Rican passport in one day and left the country immediately afterward. Employees of the Costa Rican Tourism Institute (ICT) have been blamed for the irregularities although the investigations are not finished. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1658 GMT 28 Apr 79 PA]

NICARAGUA

PRESIDENT SOMOZA DELIVERS LABOR DAY ADDRESS

PA021201 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1415 GMT 1 May 79 PA

[Speech by Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza Debayle at the Plaza de la Republica in Managua on the occasion of a rally held to celebrate International Labor Day--live]

[Excerpts] Every year on International Labor Day we come to this great national dialog in which, with civic spirit and great patriotism, the Nicaraguan labor forces commemorate International Labor Day. All workers are aware of our historic responsibility. I have always stated and continue to reiterate that the social-liberal revolution does not stop. When one project is completed, another is started.

We will not stop until all children have protection and schools. We will continue struggling against the illiteracy, and the reform to Article 14 of the labor code was promulgated because of it, to make it obligatory for all agricultural enterprises to establish and support a school when its business activities were located outside the area of national schools and as long as there were more than 30 school-age children who were the children of workers of the firm. The Education and Labor ministries will see to it that it is complied with. But those who should really see to it that the labor laws are complied with, the laws that protect them, are the trade unions of the free workers of Nicaragua. [applause]

Last year, at this same celebration, the CGT asked me to create a tripartite committee to evaluate labor freedom and the participation of workers in the plans for national development. I am very pleased to announce on this great day that effective today the committee is created with the participation of two labor leaders, two representatives from the businessmen and two representatives from the state.

While the government of the republic and certain conscientious citizens promote and create sources of work so that the Nicaraguan can earn his daily wages, certain bad Nicaraguans have destroyed our sources of work, creating problems to every honest worker who earns his salary to support himself and his family. In the serious moments which our fatherland has experienced, my government has given proof of patience and tolerance and has always been open to honest and fair dialogue. Indicative of this is the amnesty decreed on that occasion last year. It is time for you, the workers, to fully realize that those who have caused the destruction of the sources of work are the true enemies of Nicaraguan workers. [shouts, applause]

Under the present circumstances, my government, with a sense of responsibility and mainly guided by its duty to give protection to the great majorities, has been forced to adopt measures to correct the serious problems with which we are faced as a consequence of the armed aggression launched by the capitalists together with the communists, with the support of Venezuela, Costa Rica and Panama, of economic aggression in the form of preventing our access to the International Monetary Fund, promoted by the Carter government, which suspended economic aid to Nicaraguans. This caused the suspension of international private credit and the flight of the capital of those who first took the money out of Nicaragua and then got engaged in the adventure of trying to overthrow the government which they have not achieved and will not achieve. [applause]

Because of the increase in oil prices, which has affected our production and consumption, and because of the drop in the U.S. dollar, our central bank decided to devalue the currency on the international market. This was done in order to keep and increase the sources of work in both the government and private sectors, which have been affected by the subversion financed by the reactionary capital which wants to change things in Nicaragua. [applause and shouts]

With this new exchange rate, our national production will be boosted because the imported products will become more expensive, but it will also make export activity more profitable especially the export of agricultural products, resulting in jobs for farm workers. However, and in order to benefit lower income workers, my government immediately proceeded to control the prices of staples and demanded that the businessmen increase the salaries for all of the country's workers, including government employees, in order to avoid the situation in which the workers' real salary was reduced. [applause]

Regarding the minimum wage, an increase of 15 percent has been decreed based on the old salary scale in addition to the 25 percent ordered because of the devaluation. Together this represents a 40-percent increase in the minimum wage for the benefit of the less favored in Nicaragua. [applause]

Gentlemen, the businessmen, the capitalists thought of overthrowing this regime by taking the money out of Nicaragua, by becoming allies of unscrupulous politicians of the United States. They thought that I was going to betray the Nicaraguan people [interrupted by shouts] and abandon the 750,000 votes that brought me to the presidency only because they had certain allies in the United States and Venezuela. [more shouts]

I appreciate and value your presence at this plaza as a heroic, courageous, faithful and democratic act, an act of faith in the liberties which we enjoy. I want to tell my fellow workers at this plaza and those listening to us throughout the country that with this rally we wish to bury the subversion which is killing our brothers so senselessly and with this rally we are telling parents not to allow their children to become professional criminals. We want to tell the nation that we want peace because otherwise the National Guard will impose it with the constitution of the republic. [applause]

VIOLENCE CONTINUES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY; MORE DEATHS

PA031937 Paris AFP in Spanish 1627 GMT 3 May 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 3 May (AFP)--Five persons were killed during the past few hours in various areas of Managua with the continuation of the wave of political violence in Nicaragua. Three youths were machinegunned by a police patrol in Chinandega, 130 km west of Managua. The patrol apparently mistook the group of youths, who were playing cards, for a guerrilla cell. Two other youths were found dead on the outskirts of Managua a few hours after they were captured while holding up a bank branch. Groups of armed civilians opened fire on several police stations in the southwest. Casualty figures were not released.

Eight Dead in Condega

PA032002 Paris AFP in Spanish 1816 GMT 3 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 3 May (AFP)--Press sources have reported that two women and their six children were killed by the National Guard when military patrols raided their homes in Condega, 170 km north of Managua. The incident occurred at dawn today and was carried out against two families belonging to the liberal opposition to President Anastasio Somoza's government.

8 Deaths in Violence Around Managua

PA040307 Paris AFP in Spanish 2000 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 3 May (AFP)--The army has officially reported that four Sandinists were killed in disturbances that erupted in one neighborhood of the capital this afternoon. The spontaneous popular demonstrations occurred in the Maximo Jerez neighborhood of southeastern Managua. Groups of civilians set fire to many public transportation vehicles and exchanged fire with national guardsmen. The violence erupted during the funeral of Alfonso Velazquez Flores, nine years old, who was shot some hours before by a member of President Anastasio Somoza's paramilitary group.

Four Sandinists were also killed in fighting in the town of El Crucero, 25 km south of Managua. No government casualties have been reported. The confrontation occurred between a Sandinist Front detachment and a group of army reinforcements who were on their way to help the defenders of the garrison in the city of La Concepcion, 50 km southeast of Managua, who were under attack from insurgents.

Incident at Red Cross Offices

PA040405 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] Two men armed with revolvers entered installations of the Nicaraguan Red Cross this morning and, after brandishing weapons at a secretary, forced International Red Cross delegate Mr Schweitzer to turn over $4,300 in U.S. bills and Nicaraguan cordobas. The money was part of the funds of the humanitarian institution to be used to aid victims of the political and military violence in Nicaragua and political prisoners. The robbers fled on a motorcycle.

Robbery of Pepsi Plant

PA032008 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1737 GMT 3 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 3 May (ACAN-EFE)--Some 20 Sandinist guerrillas last night broke into the installations of the national bottling plant, the Pepsi-Cola concessionaire in Nicaragua. The guerrilla group seized a number of weapons, including revolvers and shotguns, used to guard the enterprise. They also stole a radio receiver, a spectrophotometer, laboratory quality control equipment and approximately 50,000 cordobas ($10,000).

SANDINISTS ISSUE COMMUNIQUE FROM SAN JOSE

PA031528 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] today issued a report on events. In a communique originating in San Jose, the FSLN says that, based on instructions from the joint national leadership, it will continue to intensify the guerrilla offensive and the revolutionary Sandinist war to weaken Somoza's National Guard. The communique adds that the purpose of the offensive is to establish the political and military conditions to lead the Nicaraguan people toward a victory of the popular insurrection movement.

COMMANDER SAYS SANDINISTS NEVER CONTROLLED LEON

PA040427 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0240 GMT 4 May 79 PA

[Text] Gen Gonzalo Evertz, Leon Department commander, has made a very important statement to the national news media. He declared flatly that the Sandinist rebels were never in control of the city of Leon, not even of one single block. Leon has always been defended, and it is under the protection of the National Guard of Nicaragua, a legally constituted armed force, he said. General Evertz commented on the way LA PRENSA and other so-called news media report events by ignoring what happens to our side, he said. If the dead are from our side they say nothing, but if the dead are theirs then they call it a massacre, a crime and cruelty, the Leon Department commander noted.

BRIEFS

COTTON EXPORTS--Alfredo Aviles Gallo, director of economic research for National Cotton Commission, has disclosed that up until 19 April 380,156 bales of cotton had been exported with 80,000 more ready to be exported. Sales contracts for 460,000 bales from the 1978-79 harvest have been signed. The total Nicaraguan cotton crop has been estimated at 510,000 bales, he added. [Managua NOVEDADES in Spanish 24 Apr 79 pp 3, 33 PA]

FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA CONTINUES FINLAND VISIT

FL032313 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 May 79 FL

[Text] Delegations from Cuba and Finland headed by the two countries' foreign ministers, Isidoro Malmierca and Paavo Vayrynen, respectively, today held talks in Helsinki. The Cuban foreign minister and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Finland yesterday on an official visit that will end on 7 May.

During the talks held today at the Finnish Council of Ministers building, the two sides discussed the excellent relations existing between Cuba and Finland and the fact that they agree on fundamental problems of the international situation. The delegations examined the possibilities of the future development of Cuban-Finnish relations in all fields.

FERNANDEZ FONT ARRIVES IN MANILA FOR UNCTAD MEETING

FL031846 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1807 GMT 3 May 79 FL

[Text] Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Marcelo Fernandez Font today arrived in Manila, the Philippines, to head our country's delegation to the Fifth UNCTAD Conference. Fernandez Font, who is also member of the PCC Central Committee, was received at the airport by Jose Arteaga, our country's ambassador to that country and member of the PCC Central Committee, and other officials. The delegation is also composed of Vice Minister of Foreign Trade Ricardo Cabrizas Ruiz; Ambassador Carlos Lechuga, director of international organizations of the Foreign Ministry; and other directors and officials.

The UNCTAD conference, to which 258 member states have been invited, will meet in Manila from 17 May to 1 June.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES RUMOR OF HUBER MATOS' DEATH

PA030341 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2246 GMT 2 May 79 PA

[Text] Havana, 2 May (EFE)--Former Revolutionary Commander Huber Matos is still alive, a Cuban Foreign Ministry official spokesman told EFE today.

When asked about a rumor that Fidel Castro's former companion had died in a Havana hospital, the Cuban Foreign Ministry official said that "Huber Matos is where he formerly was and he is alive."

It was recently reported here that the prisoner and former revolutionary commander has arthritis, kidney problems and is almost blind, and that he is being held in some part of the island.

Some sources believe that Fidel Castro's companion is the Sierra Maestra is receiving medical attention, and that he is no longer held at the Havana prison called "El Combinado del Este." However the Foreign Ministry spokesman refused to give any additional information.

Huber Matos was sentenced in 1959 to 20 years in prison. His imprisonment ends in 1979. The only information available so far is that the Costa Rican Government has granted him a visa to enter "whenever he is released."

BARBADOS

ADAMS OPPOSES CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN CARICOM

FL021655 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Apr 79 pp 1, 15 FL

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 29, (CANA)--Cuban military presence in any Caribbean Community (CARICOM) state is not to be condoned, Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams said in an exclusive interview published here to today's "EXPRESS" newspaper.

Adams had been asked to comment on recent reports that the communist Caribbean republic had responded positively to a call by Maurice Bishop government in Grenada for military assistance.

Bishop, who took over after ousting Prime Minister Eric Gairy in an armed uprising on March 13, later expressed fears of a counter-coup by Gairy-recruited mercenaries, and made similar calls for help to major Western metropolitan countries and some CARICOM states.

Said Adams: "I would say at once that I would not wish to see a Cuban military presence in any CARICOM state. We have nothing against the Cubans in Barbados. We have excellent relations with Cuba. They supply us with cement. There may be other areas where we can trade.

Cultural Ties

"We have good cultural relations with them, but my view of all that does not mean that I think that outside fundamentally what I would call aid and assistance should be sought by CARICOM states.

"I would no more think that it was good for a CARICOM government to call for Cuban military assistance than it was for one to call for Chilean military assistance. The two things in my view are equally obnoxious.

"The Chilean regime may be a good deal more obnoxious than the Cuban regime, but the concept of military assistance I think is a very dangerous and unwise one".

French Aid

Adams noted that the Grenada prime minister had similarly sought military assistance from Britain, the United States and Canada.

He added: "I haven't heard anybody say that if you don't get help from the U.S., Britain or Canada you will turn to France, which has the largest military presence in the Eastern Caribbean and the greatest capacity to deter mercenaries.

The French Government has been very willing to help Eastern Caribbean islands faced with difficulties, has shown itself a very able friend to Barbados and I haven't heard anybody suggest them. So I wonder why the political element is turning to Cuba."

Adams said CARICOM countries could help by "dissuading adventurism on the part of anybody" in the region.

"I must tell you," the Barbadian leader went on, "I believe that if Bishop had ever discussed his problems before the coup, that he would have been advised not to carry out the coup.

"He would have been advised that if the Gairy regime was so unpopular it would have fallen at the polls and that there were ways and means by which CARICOM governments might have assisted in bringing pressure to bear in favour of free elections and matters of that sort. After all Gairy did fall at the polls on one occasion."

Arms From Chile

Adams made it clear he was not referring to any direct CARICOM intervention in Grenada elections. But he said regional prime ministers could have given Gairy some "general indications".

Adams hinted that CARICOM governments had in fact dissuaded Gairy from accepting arms from the military government in Chile.

"Sir Eric knew, not only from Caribbean governments, that the use of actual arms from Chile and the creation of a Chilean-trained armed force would have evoked unfavourable response", the Barbadian leader said.

JAMAICA

PATTERSON SAYS NO SECRET DEALS WITH RUSSIA, CUBA

FL021635 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Apr 79 pp 1, 15 FL

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs P.J. Patterson, said on Saturday that "no secret deals" were entered into between Jamaica and Russia, and between Jamaica and Cuba. Neither was there any link between his visit to Cuba and the visit of Prime Minister Michael Manley to the Soviet Union early April, he said. In a statement to the press, Mr. Patterson said:

"I had initially intended to give a press conference at the airport just before my departure this afternoon to notify the press of my schedule of visits over the next few weeks and the issues with which I would be dealing during those visits.

"In the last few days, however, there have been a number of comments in sections of the press on various foreign affairs issues. This has included wild specualtion concerning alleged shifts in Jamaica's foreign policy. In view of the damage which this speculation is deliberately designed to create, and since I am obliged to be away from Jamaica for the next four weeks, I thought it imperative that I should use this opportunity to deal with some of the comments that have been published.

"All this is part of a campaign calculated to denigrate the efforts of the government in an area where we have earned international respect and achieved outstanding breakthroughs which are proving beneficial to Jamaica..

Jamaica's foreign policy remains one of non-alignment and commitment to the objectives of the new international economic order. The details have been explicitly enunciated by the prime minister and by me on numerous occasions. We are pursuing our stated course of the fight against imperialism, oppression and exploitation in all its forms. We make no apologies for exercising our right as a sovereign and independent nation to develop friendly and principled relations with countries of differing political systems and ideologies.

"There have been suggestions that there has been some shift in our policy as a result of the prime minister's recent visit to Moscow. All this is part of the effort to cast doubts on the rationale and the accomplishments of an historic mission.

Non-Negotiable

The communique issued at the end of the prime minister's visit, and the reports which the prime minister has made to the nation and the press since his return together represent the substance of what was discussed and agreed during his visit. There were no secret deals. We remain a country which practices democratic socialism at home and pursues non-alignment abroad. These principles are basic and non-negotiable.

"There have been suggestions that there was a link between the prime minister's visit to Moscow and my own visit to Havana late last week--and even that my Havana visit was consequential on the prime minister's visit to Moscow. I suppose that the coincidence of these two visits provides fertile ground for anyone who wishes to indulge in unbridled speculation. But the fact is that there was no link between the two visits.

Non-Aligned

"From the beginning of this year Foreign Minister Malmierca and I had been trying to set up a meeting to discuss a number of matters in connection with the forth-coming summit conference of the non-aligned movement to be held in Havana later this year.

"There are, of course, a number of issues that we thought it desirable to discuss as members of the Coordinating Bureau, but there are also a number of very important logistical matters in connection with the summit conference on which collaboration between Jamaica and Cuba is vital, because a large proportion of the heads of state or government attending that conference will be passing through Jamaica en route to and from Havana: This obviously is not a matter which the Jamaican Government can treat lightly, and we need to be fully prepared. We have been attempting to fix a date for these discussions since early this year--in fact the first contemplated date was in mid-February--but the time table difficulties of Foreign Minister Malmierca and myself prevented an earlier meeting.

No Link

"There was, I repeat, no deliberate link between the two meetings and the one was not a sequel to the other. Of course, we took the opportunity to discuss new possibilities which emerged from the Soviet visit in so far as they relate to shipping, fishing and tourism. Naturally, we are also discussed subjects of bilateral interest.

"The press will know, of course, that there is nothing unusual about the issue of a communique following talks between two foreign ministers; indeed it is a normal practice. A communique is arrived at by agreement between the parties and cannot be expected to reflect the position of its signatories in detail. Let me make it clear, however, that there was a considerable similarity of views on the subjects discussed.

"There has been comment to the effect that 'the Jamaican public had not up to Wednesday been told of the communique by the Jamaican Government." This is simply not true. The press was in fact informed of it immediately on my return to Kingston last Saturday; and those who chose to do so in fact carried reports of it over last weekend and earlier this week.

Puerto Rico Case

"In relation to the Havana communique there has been criticism of the reference to Puerto Rico. Our position on Puerto Rico is clear; we believe that the people of Puerto Rico have the right to self-determination, and to choose a separate independence if that is their determined wish.

"The short sentence in the communique dealing with this matter merely sought to reaffirm our view while at the same time recognising the Cuban position. It does not represent any change in our own.

"In regard to the situation in South-east Asia our position is also clear. The principle enshrined in the United Nations Charter of respect of the territorial integrity of all states is central to this situation, and this has been forthrightly enunciated by us in the Security Council and elsewhere.

Zimbabwe

"Reference has been made to the role of the Patriotic Front in Zimbabwe. The fact is that the Patriotic Front has been recognised as the representative of the people of Zimbabwe by the Organization of African Unity, and by the non-aligned movement. It has been waging a long war against the illegal regime in Salisbury, a regime which Jamaica has never recognised.

"It is largely the prosecution of this war which has led Ian Smith to alter his tactics, and to attempt to beguile and mislead the international community by formulating the so-called internal settlement on which the elections held in Rhodesia last week were based.

"I would have thought that by now it would be common knowledge that the Constitution on which the elections were held is totally undemocratic and entrenches white minority rule in every important aspect of the life of the country. I can give you some examples: The Constitution was adopted by a so-called referendum on which the voters were only the white members of the population--three per cent of the total population.

"The so-called House of Assembly has 100 seats 28 of which are reserved for white members and the voting on issues facing the assembly is so designed that important bills can be passed only with permission of the white minority. The posts of judges to the High Court, members of the Judicial Service Commission, Police Service Commission, the attorney general, the Defence Services Commission, the Senate Legal Committee, the comptroller/auditor general are effectively, and will remain under the direct control of the white minority and open only to them.

"Under the Constitution for at least the first five years the number of ministries would be divided among the various parties in proportion to the number of seats they hold in the House of Assembly. As the white members number 28 a minority block of only 3 per cent of the population would control between a quarter to one-third of ministries.

"The prime minister has virtually no control over the appointments to the key ministries of defence, internal security and has no effective say in the appointment of commanders of the defence or police forces. The Constitution places almost insuperable obstacles in the path of any type land reform. Although the so-called Constitution outlaws discrimination in all its forms not only are specified statutes especially entrenched but the validity of all existing laws is preserved. The result, therefore, is the preservation and protection of the entire statute book of a racially discriminatory regime.

"It is this travesty of a Constitution on which the Rhodesian people were asked to vote last week, and which the GLEANER and STAR expect us to endorse.

"But this is not the full extent of the travesty because so-called elections were held without any preceding voter registration. It is worth noting that at least one of the leaders responsible for this procedure the Rev. Sithole, is now crying 'foul'.

"As an analysis of the Commonwealth Secretariat concludes, virtually every lever of institutional power has been retained in white hands; those few surrendered have been effectively emasculated. Only the election of the president could be said to meet the claim of being democratic, and it is significant that his role is simply that of a figurehead.

Rather, the people at large are bequeathed a government bereft of the power to govern effectively, and a legislature denuded of all means either to change the status quo, or to advance the legitimate aspirations of the nation as a whole. Taken as a whole, and judged by the democratic standards claimed for it by its proponents, it is revealed as a carefully woven, carefully contrived subterfuge for sustaining a wholly anti-democratic regime.

Rejection

"The internal settlement on which all of this was based has not been accepted by any of the permanent members of the Security Council nor by the Security Council itself. The African group has formally asked for its rejection. It has, of course, been accepted by the South African regime.

"Jamaica's position in this regard, therefore, is in no way unusual and is well known. Under no circumstances will the Government of Jamaica recognize any government which emerges in Rhodesia as a result of this farce.

Columnists

"It is, to say the least, strange that any element of the Jamaican community could favour the acceptance of a situation created by such a patently undemocratic process. I deeply regret that certain columnists and editorial writers in Jamaica could bring themselves to identify with a Constitution that denies basic human dignity.

"I do not anticipate that this statement will cause our detractors to desist or discontinue their efforts to undermine the confidence of the Jamaican people in themselves. I can only hope that the public will be better informed of the mischief which they intend."